Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-25.   (Canceled)

26.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim [[28]] <u>75</u> wherein said timing data comprises one of timestamp information, timecode information, frame numbering information and global time of day.

27.   (Canceled)

28.   (Currently Amended)   A hyperlinked reception system comprising:

a receiver in communication with a broadcast channel<u>, the receiver decoding a digital broadcast signal transmitted over the broadcast channel to recover a video signal, a plurality of masks, and a plurality of object data packets included in the broadcast signal, each mask corresponding to a particular video frame of a video program and including graphics data associated with one or more video objects in the particular video frame, each mask including an identifier to an object mapping table included in at least a particular one of the plurality of object data packets, the object mapping table including an entry associated with each of the one or more video objects in the particular video frame, each entry in the object mapping table referencing one or more information data structures included in one or more of the plurality of object data packets, the information data structures including information associated with the corresponding video object</u>; and

a display device in communication with said receiver, <u>the display device overlaying one or more graphics images on a particular video frame based on the graphics data in the mask for the particular video frame, and</u>

a processor coupled to the receiver, the processor being configured to:

receive a user selection associated with one of the graphics images overlaid on the particular video frame;

retrieve the identifier of the object mapping table from the mask corresponding to the particular video frame responsive to the user selection;

retrieve the object mapping table based on the retrieved identifier;

locate the entry in the object mapping table for the video object associated with the one of the graphics images;

identify the one or more information data structures referenced in the located entry;

retrieve information in the identified one or more information data structures; and

display the retrieved information on the display device.

~~wherein said receiver decodes a digital broadcast signal to recover a video signal, mask data, and annotation data included in the broadcast signal, the mask data including graphics data for each of a plurality of video frames of the video signal and the annotation data including information on a video object appearing on each of the plurality of video frames, wherein at least the mask data is compressed based on a compression algorithm;~~

~~wherein, in response to a viewer request, said display device draws a graphics image on a frame-by-frame basis based on the graphics data for the corresponding video frame, the drawing of the graphics image being synchronized to the corresponding video frame based on timing data associated with the graphics data.~~

29-32. (Canceled)

33.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 28, wherein said ~~annotation data comprises~~ information data structures include information regarding goods and services for sale.

34.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 28, wherein said ~~annotation data comprises~~ information data structures include non-commercial information.

35.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 28 wherein said ~~annotation data further~~ information data structures include[[s]] at least one of textual data and graphics data.

36.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 35 wherein ~~said mask data~~ each of the masks includes location information of the one or more video objects in the corresponding video frame.

37.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 36 wherein said location information includes a graphics location reference that represents a fixed relation to a set of pixels associated with said one or more video objects.

38.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 37 wherein said graphics location reference includes an upper left most pixel in said associated pixel set.

39.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 37 wherein said graphics location reference includes a centroid pixel of said associated pixel set.

40.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 35 wherein [[said]] each of the masks ~~data comprises~~ include location and shape information of the one or more video objects in the corresponding video frame.

41.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 40 wherein said shape information is represented by the overlaid one or more graphics images ~~a graphical overlay~~ of said one or more video objects.

42.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 40 wherein said shape information is represented by an outline of said <u>one or more video</u> object<u>s</u>.

43.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 40 wherein said shape information is represented by a mathematical representation of a set of pixels associated with said <u>one or more video</u> object<u>s</u>.

44-48. (Canceled)

49.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 28, further comprising:

means for transmitting information related to [[said]] <u>a</u> viewer request <u>of the one or more information data structures</u> to a remote location over a backchannel communications channel.

50.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 28, further comprising:

means for accepting from a viewer information regarding a commercial transaction, and completing said transaction.

51.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 50, wherein the information regarding a commercial transaction accepted from a viewer comprises at least one of a viewer's identifier, a viewers address, an identifier of a viewer's financial account, a viewer's password, a viewer's personal identification number, a quantity, a model, a size, a color, a descriptor of a good or service to be vended, and a price.

52.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 28, wherein <u>two or more of</u> the <u>plurality of object data packets have</u> ~~annotation data includes a plurality of annotations having~~ equal timing information, and the <u>processor processes a</u> viewer request ~~includes~~ <u>including</u> an indication as to which ~~annotation~~ of the <u>two or more of the</u> plurality of <u>object data packets</u> ~~annotations~~ is to be ~~displayed~~ <u>processed for displaying information contained therein</u>.

53-63. (Canceled)

64. (Currently Amended) A hyperlinked broadcast system comprising:

a video source providing a video program having a plurality of video frames;

a video encoder in communication with said video source, said video encoder producing a transport stream for transporting the video program;

an authoring tool providing mask data and object data for the video program mask and annotation data, the mask data including graphics data for each of a plurality of video frames provided by the video source and the annotation data including information on a video object appearing on each of the plurality of video frames, wherein at least the mask data is compressed based on a compression algorithm;

a data packet stream generator in communication with said authoring tool and said video encoder, said data packet stream generator producing encoded data packets including a plurality of masks and a plurality of object data packets, each mask corresponding to a particular video frame of the video program and including graphics data associated with one or more video objects in the particular video frame, each mask including an identifier to an object mapping table included in at least a particular one of the plurality of object data packets, the object mapping table including an entry associated with each of the one or more video objects in the particular video frame, each entry in the object mapping table referencing one or more information data structures included in one or more of the plurality of object data packets, the information data structures including information associated with the corresponding video object; [[and]]

a multiplexer system in communication with said video encoder and said data packet stream generator, said multiplexer generating a digital broadcast signal comprising an augmented transport stream from said transport stream and said encoded data packets[[,]]; and

means for transmitting the digital broadcast signal to a receiver.

~~wherein said video encoder provides timing information for each of the plurality of video frames provided by the video source to said data packet stream generator, and said data packet stream generator steps through the plurality of video frames and associates the timing information of each video frame to the graphics data,~~

~~wherein, a receiver receiving the plurality of video frames and the graphics data synchronizes drawing of the graphics image based on the graphics data, to an underlying frame, based on the timing information.~~

65.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[64]] <u>77</u> wherein said timing information comprises one of timestamp information, timecode information, frame numbering information and global time of day.

66.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 64 wherein said <u>information data structures include</u> ~~annotation data further comprises~~ at least one of textual data and graphics data.

67.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 64 wherein <u>each of the masks</u> ~~said mask data~~ includes location information of the <u>one or more video</u> object<u>s</u> in the corresponding video frame.

68.   (Currently Amended) The system of 67 wherein said location information includes a graphics location reference that represents a fixed relation to a set of pixels associated with said <u>one or more video</u> object<u>s</u>.

69.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 68 wherein said graphics location reference includes an upper left most pixel in said associated pixel set.

70.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 68 wherein said graphics location reference includes a centroid pixel of said associated pixel set.

71.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 64 wherein [[said]] each of the masks include data comprises location and shape information of the one or more video objects in the corresponding video frame.

72.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 71 wherein said shape information is represented by the overlaid one or more graphics images a graphical overlay of said one or more video objects.

73.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 71 wherein said shape information is represented by an outline of said one or more video objects.

74.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 71 wherein said shape information is represented by a mathematical representation of a set pixels associated with said one or more video objects.

75.   (New) The reception system of claim 1, wherein the mask further includes timing data, and the display device draws the one or more graphics images on a frame-by-frame basis based on the graphics data in the mask for the corresponding video frame, the drawing of the one or more graphics images being synchronized to the corresponding video frame based on the timing data in the corresponding mask.

76.   (New) The reception system of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of masks is compressed based on a compression algorithm.

77.   (New) The broadcast system of claim 64, wherein said video encoder provides timing information for each of the plurality of video frames of the video program provided by the video source to said data packet stream generator, and said data packet stream generator steps

through the plurality of video frames and associates the timing information of each video frame to a corresponding mask.

78.   (New) The broadcast system of claim 64, wherein each of the plurality of masks is compressed based on a compression algorithm.

79.   (New) The broadcast system of claim 64, wherein the receiver is configured to:

decode the digital broadcast signal to recover the plurality of masks and the plurality of object data packets;

overlay one or more graphics images on a particular video frame based on the graphics data in the mask for the particular video frame;

receive a user selection associated with one of the graphics images overlaid on the particular video frame;

retrieve the identifier of the object mapping table from the mask corresponding to the particular video frame responsive to the user selection;

retrieve the object mapping table based on the retrieved identifier;

locate the entry in the object mapping table for the video object associated with the one of the graphics images;

identify the one or more information data structures referenced in the located entry;

retrieve information in the identified one or more information data structures; and

display the retrieved information on a display device.

80.   (New) The broadcast system of claim 79, wherein the mask further includes timing data, and the display device draws the one or more graphics images on a frame-by-frame basis based on the graphics data in the mask for the corresponding video frame, the drawing of the one or more graphics images being synchronized to the corresponding video frame based on the timing data in the corresponding mask.

81.   (New) A hyperlinked reception method comprising:

decoding a digital broadcast signal transmitted over the broadcast channel to recover a video signal, a plurality of masks, and a plurality of object data packets included in the broadcast signal, each mask corresponding to a particular video frame of a video program and including graphics data associated with one or more video objects in the particular video frame, each mask including an identifier to an object mapping table included in at least a particular one of the plurality of object data packets, the object mapping table including an entry associated with each of the one or more video objects in the particular video frame, each entry in the object mapping table referencing one or more information data structures included in one or more of the plurality of object data packets, the information data structures including information associated with the corresponding video object;

overlaying one or more graphics images on a particular video frame based on the graphics data in the mask for the particular video frame;

receiving a user selection associated with one of the graphics images overlaid on the particular video frame;

retrieving the identifier of the object mapping table from the mask corresponding to the particular video frame responsive to the user selection;

retrieving the object mapping table based on the retrieved identifier;

locating the entry in the object mapping table for the video object associated with the one of the graphics images;

identifying the one or more information data structures referenced in the located entry;

retrieving information in the identified one or more information data structures; and

displaying the retrieved information on a display device.

82.   (New) The method of claim 81, wherein the mask further includes timing data, the method further comprising:

drawing the one or more graphics images on a frame-by-frame basis based on the graphics data in the mask for the corresponding video frame, the drawing of the one or more

graphics images being synchronized to the corresponding video frame based on the timing data in the corresponding mask.

83.   (New) The method of claim 81, wherein each of the plurality of masks is compressed based on a compression algorithm.

84.   (New) A hyperlinked broadcast method comprising:

providing a video program having a plurality of video frames;

generating a transport stream for transporting the video program;

generating mask data and annotation data for the video program;

generating encoded data packets including a plurality of masks and a plurality of object data packets, each mask corresponding to a particular video frame of the video program and including graphics data associated with one or more video objects in the particular video frame, each mask including an identifier to an object mapping table included in at least a particular one of the plurality of object data packets, the object mapping table including an entry associated with each of the one or more video objects in the particular video frame, each entry in the object mapping table referencing one or more information data structures included in one or more of the plurality of object data packets, the information data structures including information associated with the corresponding video object;

generating a digital broadcast signal comprising an augmented transport stream from said transport stream and said encoded data packets; and

transmitting the digital broadcast signal to a receiver.

85.   (New) The method of claim 84 further comprising:

providing timing information for each of the plurality of video frames of the video program; and

stepping through the plurality of video frames and associating the timing information of each video frame to a corresponding mask.

86. (New) The method of claim 84 further comprising:

compressing each of the plurality of masks based on a compression algorithm.

87. (New)   A hyperlinked reception system comprising:

a receiver receiving over one or more television broadcast signals a plurality of object data packets and a video program having a plurality of video frames, the object data packets including one or more object mapping tables including an entry associated with each of one or more video objects in a particular video frame, each entry in the object mapping table referencing one or more information data structures included in one or more of the plurality of object data packets, the information data structures including information associated with the corresponding video object; and

a display device in communication with said receiver, the display device overlaying one or more graphics images on a particular video frame based on associated mask data, the mask data including an identifier to a corresponding one of the one or more object mapping tables; and

a processor coupled to the receiver, the processor being configured to:

receive a user selection associated with one of the graphics images overlaid on the particular video frame;

retrieve the identifier of the object mapping table from the mask data corresponding to the user selection;

retrieve the object mapping table based on the retrieved identifier;

locate the entry in the object mapping table for the video object associated with the one of the graphics images;

identify the one or more information data structures referenced in the located entry;

retrieve information in the identified one or more information data structures; and

display the retrieved information on the display device.